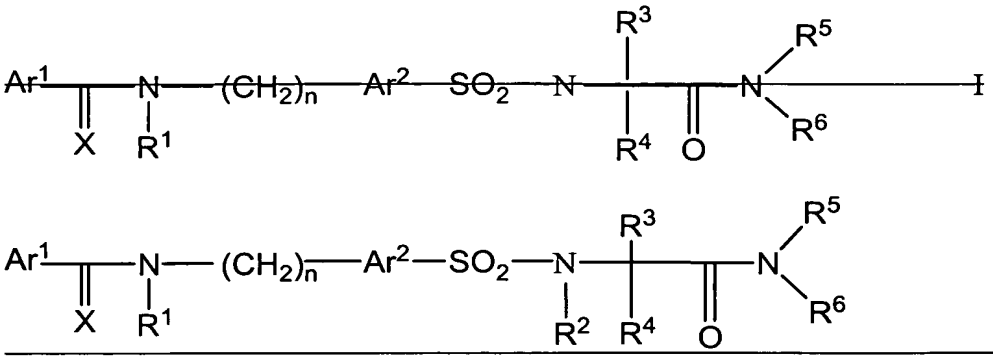
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A ~~sulfonyl amino acid derivative~~ compound according to formula I



with its geometrical isomers, in an optically active form as enantiomers, diastereomers, as well as in the form of racemates, as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein

Ar^1 is unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkyl, trihalomethyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_6-alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_6-alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyl, aryl, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, acyloxy, acylamino, sulfoxy, sulfonyl, ~~or~~ and substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6- thioalkoxy;

Ar^2 is thienyl; ~~unsubstituted thienyl or thienyl substituted with one or more substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkyl, trihalomethyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_6-alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_6-alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyl, aryl, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, acyloxy, acylamino, sulfoxy, sulfonyl, or substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6- thioalkoxy;~~

X is O; ~~O or S;~~

~~R^1 is hydrogen or an unsubstituted or substituted C_1-C_6-alkyl group, or R^1 may form a substituted or unsubstituted 5-6-membered saturated or unsaturated fused ring with Ar^1, or R^2 and R^4 form a substituted or unsubstituted 5-6 membered saturated or unsaturated ring;~~

~~R^2 is hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkyl group;~~

n is 1;

R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are ~~both~~ hydrogen;

R^5 is H or ~~substituted or unsubstituted~~ C_1-C_6-alkyl;

R^6 is selected from the group consisting of H, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-aliphatic alkyl, and substituted or unsubstituted saturated cyclic C_4-C_8-alkyl optionally containing 1-3 heteroatoms and optionally fused with an unsubstituted or substituted aryl or an heteroaryl; or R^6 is a substituted aryl, unsubstituted aryl, substituted heteroaryl, or unsubstituted heteroaryl,

wherein said aryl or heteroaryl groups may be substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkyl, trihalomethyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_6-alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyl, aryl, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, acyloxy, acylamino, sulfoxy, sulfonyl, ~~or~~ and C_1-C_6-thioalkoxy.

Claims 2-6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The ~~sulfonyl amino acid derivative~~ compound according to claim 1, wherein

R^5 is H; and R^6 is a C_1-C_6-alkyl which is substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of an aryl, an heteroaryl ~~group or~~ group, an aminoaryl, aminoheteroaryl, aryloxy, and heteroaryloxy,

wherein said aryl and heteroaryl groups are optionally substituted by substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkyl, trihalomethyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_6-alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_6-alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, sulfoxy, or C_1-C_6-thioalkoxy.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The ~~sulfonyl amino acid derivative~~ compound according to claim 7, wherein R^6 is a substituted or unsubstituted pyridyl group.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A ~~sulfonyl amino acid derivative~~ compound according to claim 1 which is: ~~is selected from the following group:~~

4-chloro-N-({5-[({2-[(2-{[3-chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl]amino}ethyl)-amino]-2-oxoethyl}amino)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl}methyl)benzamide,

4-chloro-N-[(5-{[(2-{[2-({5-nitropyridin-2-yl}amino)ethyl]amino}-2-oxoethyl)-amino]sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide,

4-chloro-N-({5-[({2-oxo-2-[(2-{[3-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl]amino}ethyl)-amino]ethyl}amino)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl}methyl)benzamide,

4-chloro-N-({5-[({2-oxo-2-[(2-{[5-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl]amino}ethyl)-amino]ethyl}amino)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl}methyl)benzamide,

~~N-({5-[({2-[4-(1H-1,2,3-benzotriazol-1-yl)piperidin-1-yl]-2-oxoethyl}amino)-sulfonyl]thien-2-yl}methyl)-4-chlorobenzamide,~~ or

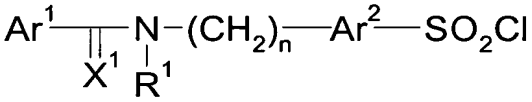
4-chloro-N-[(5-{[(2-oxo-2-{3-[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]anilino}ethyl)amino]-sulfonyl}thien-2-yl)methyl]benzamide.

Claims 10-16 (Cancelled).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one ~~sulfonyl amino acid derivative~~ compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

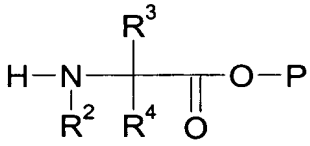
Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of the ~~sulfonyl amino acid derivative~~ compound according to claim 1 comprising:

a) preparing a sulfonyl compound V,



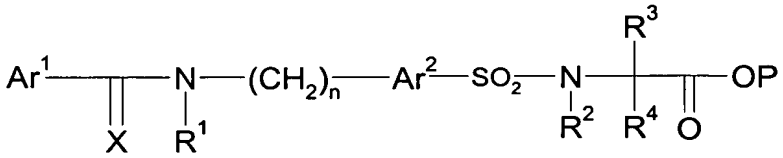
V

b) reacting the sulfonyl compound V with ~~the~~ a protected amino acid compound VIII



VIII

to obtain a compound IX



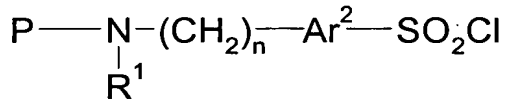
IX

c) deprotecting the compound IX and then ~~finally~~

d) coupling with an amine of type R^5R^4NH.

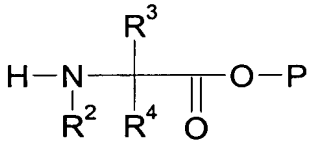
Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of the ~~sulfonyl amino acid derivative~~ compound according to claim 1, comprising:

a) preparing a protected sulfonyl compound VII



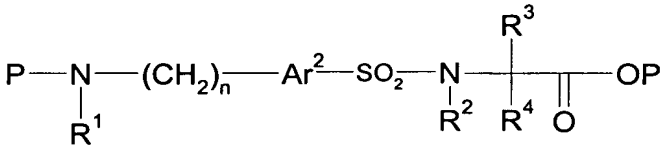
VII

b) reacting the sulfonyl compound VII with ~~the~~ a protected amino acid compound VIII



VIII

to obtain a compound ~~X~~ X, then



X

e) ~~followed by~~ deprotecting the compound X;

f) coupling with an amine of type R^5R^4NH;

g) deprotecting, and

h) acylating. ~~acylation.~~

Claims 20-28 (Cancelled).

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The ~~sulfonyl amino acid derivative~~ compound according to claim 1, which is 4-chloro-N-({5-[({2-[(2-{[3-chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)pyridin-2-yl]amino}ethyl)-amino]-2-oxoethyl}amino)sulfonyl]thien-2-yl}methyl)benzamide.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): A method to treat a disorder of the autoimmune and/or neuronal system comprising

administering the ~~sulfonyl amino acid derivative~~ compound of claim 1 to a mammal in need thereof in an amount effective to treat a disorder of the autoimmune and/or neuronal system.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 30, wherein the mammal is a human.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 30, wherein the ~~sulfonyl amino acid derivative~~ compound is administered orally.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): A method to treat a disorder of the autoimmune and/or neuronal system comprising

administering the ~~sulfonyl amino acid derivative~~ compound of claim 1 to a human in an amount effective ~~for modulating~~ to down-regulate or inhibit the JNK pathway.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 30, wherein the ~~sulfonyl amino acid derivative~~ compound is administered to a human having ~~a~~ at least one neuronal disorder selected from the group consisting of epilepsy, Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease, retinal disease, spinal cord injury, and head trauma.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 30, wherein the ~~sulfonyl amino acid derivative~~ compound is administered to a human having ~~an~~ at least one autoimmune

disease selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, inflammatory bowel disease, rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, septic shock, and transplant rejection.

Claims 36-37 (Canceled).

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 30, wherein the ~~sulfonyl amino acid derivative~~ compound is administered in an amount effective for decreasing the production of IL-2.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): The ~~sulfonyl amino acid derivative~~ compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar^1 is a chloro-phenyl group. ~~group and Ar^2 is an unsubstituted thienyl group.~~

Claim 40 (Canceled).

Claim 41 (New): The compound according to claim 1, wherein

R^6 is a C_1-C_6-alkyl which is substituted by substituents selected from the group consisting of an aryl, an heteroaryl group, an aminoaryl, aminoheteroaryl, aryloxy, and heteroaryloxy,

wherein said aryl and heteroaryl groups are optionally substituted by substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkyl, trihalomethyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_6-alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_6-alkynyl, amino, acylamino, aminocarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, carboxyl, cyano, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, sulfoxy, or C_1-C_6-thioalkoxy.

Claim 42 (New): A method to treat cancer comprising

administering the compound of claim 1 to a mammal in need thereof in an amount effective to treat cancer.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 42, wherein the compound is administered to a human having breast cancer, colorectal cancer, or pancreatic cancer.

Claim 44 (New): A method to treat cardiovascular disease comprising

administering the compound of claim 1 to a mammal in need thereof in an amount effective to treat cardiovascular disease.

Claim 45 (New): The method of claim 44, wherein the compound is administered to a human having at least one cardiovascular disease selected from the group consisting of stroke arteriosclerosis, myocardial infarction, and myocardial reperfusion injury.